



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2137, **Agenda Item #:** 79.

7/29/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a cooperative contract with Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc., for gas chromatograph/mass spectrometers, in an amount not to exceed \$141,000.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department.

Purchasing Language:

Multiple cooperative purchase programs were reviewed for these goods. The Purchasing Office has determined this contractor best meets the needs of the departments to provide the goods required at the best value for the City.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to John Hilbun, at 512-974-1054 or john.hilbun@austintexas.gov <<mailto:john.hilbun@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract is for the purchase of two replacement gas chromatograph/mass spectrometers (GC/MS) for the Forensic Science Department's Chemistry Unit. The GC/MS is the main instrument used by the Forensic Science Department's laboratory for the identification of narcotic and toxic substances and is globally accepted as a means to conclusively identify narcotic substances. This purchase will begin the process of replacing two of the eight workhorse GC/MS instruments that have met or exceeded the instrument lifecycle. The current equipment requires helium as the carrier gas, while this modern GC/MS equipment uses hydrogen or another widely available carrier. There is a global shortage of helium, so it is important for the laboratory to transition to

instrumentation that allows it to avoid interruptions or loss of service.

A vast majority of literature published regarding narcotic analysis includes or is based on data from this instrument. Each Forensic Science Department chemist has been trained and competency tested on the use of this instrument. This allows them to testify as an expert witness in court.

This is a new contract. The recommended contractor has previously provided similar equipment to the City.

The Texas Multiple Award Schedule cooperative establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by the State and other government agencies through a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements save taxpayer dollars by leveraging the State's volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

If the City is unable to secure a contract, the Forensic Science Department may experience delays in completing stakeholder analysis requests.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.